

Ybor Cigar Factory
1916 North Fourteenth Street
Ybor City (Tampa)
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS No. FL-270

HABS
FLA
29-TAMP,
19-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

YBOR CIGAR FACTORY

HABS No. FL-270

- Location: 1916 North Fourteenth Street, bounded by East Eighth Avenue, North Thirteenth Street and East Ninth Avenue, Ybor City, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.
- Present Owner and Occupant: Trend Publications, Incorporated.
- Present Use: The building was renovated in the 1970s and now accommodate a restaurant, boutique shops, apartments and the publications office of Trend Publications. It is called Ybor Square.
- Significance: The original building was the first brick cigar factory constructed in Tampa in 1886. Vincent Martinez Ybor, its founder, constructed a model city surrounding the factory where the cigar workers resided. The factory was the focal point for the cigar workers who lived in the area called Ybor City.
- Ybor's building was the largest hand-rolled cigar complex which was typical of a distinct industry and era in the history of Florida. It was unique because it brought industrialization to a predominantly agrarian town. Large numbers of Latins who worked in the factory were introduced into a white Anglo-Saxon based society.
- The success of the factory stimulated other cigar industries to move to Tampa, making Ybor City the cigar capital of the United States by 1900. In less than twenty years Tampa changed from a small port town to a thriving city.
- From the steps of the main factory building, Jose Marti, a Cuban patriot and martyr, rallied support for Cuban independence. After the Spanish-American War, these steps were removed to Cuba to become a National Shrine.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The main factory was built in 1886, with additions constructed in 1889 and 1895. Both the Stemmyery and the Bonded Warehouse were built in 1902.
2. Architect: C.E. Parcell, a local Tampan, who was in charge of plans and construction of the original building.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The buildings are located on a section of land which now comprise Ybor City. The following property records are compiled from Chelsea Title and Guaranty Company, Tampa, Florida.

1885

Deed recorded October 22, 1885, filed October 26, 1885
Book K, page 176
John Lesley and wife
to
Vincent Martinez Ybor, et al

1891

Deed recorded October 22, 1891, filed October 23, 1891
Book LL, page 527
Ybor City Land and Development Company
to
Orlo J. Stafford
(This was sale of 70 feet of land, Block 30, lot 10, 70 X 70 feet, which was transferred to several owners from 1891 to the present. It was used for the construction of a small restaurant.)

1898

Deed recorded April 15, 1898, filed April 15, 1898
Book N1, page 128
Ybor City Land and Development Company
to
Ybor and Manrara Corporation

1899

Deed recorded December 7, 1899, filed December 26, 1899
Book I2, page 597
Edward Manrara Company
to
Havana American Company

1899

Deed recorded December 7, 1899, filed December 26, 1899
Book I2, page 598
Ybor-Manrara Company
to
Havana American Company

1900

Deed recorded March 4, 1900, filed March 4, 1900
Book R2, page 267
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company
to
Orlo Stafford
(sale of the north 30 feet of lot 10)

1900

Deed recorded June 17, 1900, filed June 29, 1900
Book R2, page 297
Havana American Company
to
American Cigar Company

1953

Deed recorded December 29, 1953, filed January 21, 1954
Book 1782, page 320
American Cigarette and Cigar Company (formerly American Cigar Company)
to
American Tobacco Company

1955

Deed recorded May 5, 1955, filed May 18, 1955
Book 1878, page 233
American Tobacco Company
to
Hava Tampa Cigar Company

1972

Hava Tampa sold the building complex
to
Trend Publications Inc.

4. Original plans and construction: The original brick building was the tallest structure in Tampa at the time of the construction. Vincent Martinez Ybor was given \$4,000 by the Board of Trade to begin construction of his building. He first constructed a temporary wooden structure where production of cigars was carried forth while the larger brick building was being constructed. Even before moving into the permanent brick facilities, cigar making was already in full production.

The newspaper, Tampa Guardian, recorded the construction of the building on May 26, 1886:

"If a person would visit this place every day there would be something new to see, some new evidence of the substantial growth and development. But when a person goes out there only once in two or three weeks, astonishment meets the eye and it is difficult to understand how much can be done in so short a time. And when one remembers that less than six months ago this site was a forest, the transformation furnishes a matter for interesting consideration."

The June 9, 1886 issue of the Tampa Guardian recorded:

"The mammoth three story brick cigar factory of messers, V. Martinez Ybor and Co. is nearing completion, there is not a more substantial structure in the state of Florida. None but the very best material has been used in any part and no expense spared to make it both handsome and convenient. The company has provided

for emergencies and convenience by constructing two flights of stairways from the first to the third floor, besides a large elevator goes from the bottom to the top. There is a large handsome observatory on the top from which a most magnificent view can be taken, embracing the two cities of Tampa and Ybor, the country on the north and west, and the grandeur of the bay on the east."

The factory was in full production by 1887, and a year of work resulted in one of the finest cigar factories in the South. The Tampa Journal, June 23, 1887, recorded:

"V. Martinez Ybor and Company - About 18 months ago this firm, then of Keywest, moved their entire Cigar manufacturing interests from that place to Tampa. They bought a tract of 40 acres about 1 mile from the courthouse and at once began clearing the same and within a few weeks cottages were being erected as rapidly as material could be secured and mechanics could put them up, for the use of employees that it was necessary to move here. Along with these buildings a fine hotel, stores and other buildings were erected. A large-framed two story building was erected for temporary use as a Cigar Factory. But, long before the first year was out, a magnificent 3-story brick factory building was erected which has the capacity for 600 cigar makers. It is one of the finest buildings in the state and affords every convenience and advantage required carrying on such an immense business."

5. Alterations and additions: In 1889 an addition was built at the rear (west) of the original factory building. In 1895 another addition was added to the north side of the original building. Other additions have been added, but their construction dates are not recorded.

The American Cigar Company was successful in its operation of the building it purchased in 1901, and increased production demands resulted in the addition of a two-story warehouse in the rear of the original building in 1902. In that year there was also added a three-story addition as large as the original factory, on the south corner of the block. The first floor of the latter addition served as a stemmery where the stems of the tobacco leaves were removed. The stemmery laborers were women who were completely isolated from the men. The Tampa Morning Tribune wrote a lengthy article on the new stemmery on Sunday January 18, 1903:

"An acquisition to the tobacco interests as well as the commercial conditions of Tampa one of which few people are familiar or even cognizant descended in a pile of brick and mortar at the corner of 8th avenue and 14th street in Ybor City.

On this same corner has stood for many years a structure which still goes down in history as a monument to the memory of its founders V. Martinez Ybor and Edward Manrara which stands in close proximity in adjoining the massive pile of which we are about to speak.

Less than three years ago this institution became the property of a concern known as the Havana American Cigar Company and it is to this concern that Tampa owes allegiance for this acquisition which is now a component part of her life industry, the manufacture of cigars.

To be more specific and to give the public an idea of the institution as it exists today, a tribune representative applied for permission to inspect the factory and through the kindness of Mr. E. G. Hester, general manager of the Havana American interests in Tampa he was shown through the entire series of buildings and while passing from one department to another this gentleman explained minutely the modus operandi and why the necessity of these improvements and extensions referring even to the architects plans for accurate figures with regards to the dimensions of this recent acquisitions known to men interested in Tobacco as the stemmery.

THE BIG STEMMERY

This building stands in the rear of the one story building which has long been the home of the office and clerical force of the original concern fronting on 14th street. Passing through this building we come to the boiler room in which is a battery of boilers capable of generating sufficient steam to equal 50 horsepower. These boilers are to furnish steam for heating the entire series of buildings from top to bottom. The importance of this can be readily understood when it is known that tobacco must have an equal amount of temperature and moisture to be worked advantageously. A stove placed in a given spot warms only a comparatively small space and at the same time dries the moisture to that extent. It renders the tobacco brittle and hard while only a short distance away the room is cold and the workmen and tobacco suffer equally alike. This building is an L or wing two stories in height running parallel with 14th street. The other or northern end is being used as a lavatory which is commodiously arranged and supplied with the most improved sanitary appliances, all in white enamel and corresponding trimmings. From the western side of this building all cigars are shipped, a special platform being conveniently arranged contiguous to an elevator running from the top to the bottom of the building

on which all manufactured or raw material is raised or lowered from one floor to another. The shaft in which runs the elevator is rendered fireproof by the application of sheet iron to all the woodwork.

THE MAIN BUILDING

Immediately to the west and between this building and 13th street is the main stemmery building. This is a brick structure three stories high. Its length is 200 feet and its width 60 feet. It is provided with modern fire escapes and its construction is massive. The flooring for instance is 5 inches in thickness. The support pillars a foot in diameter and all other details in proportion. In the basement of this building is the department known as the Stemmer and here it is that many improvements have been inaugurated to the end of separating the stems of tobacco from the flexible leaf. Here hundreds of girls are busily engaged in stripping all the tobacco that is used in the Havana American Companies, in this city and will eventually strip for all factories embraced by Havana American Company. At the western end of this room is a storage room where all tobacco is stored when taken from the bonded warehouse and kept there until transferred to the casing department.

THE SECOND FLOOR

On the second floor is the barreling room in which immense quantities of tobacco are in process of manufacture. Immense filler bins are arranged along the sides of this room in which the several grades of filler are kept pending a requisition from the floor above or some of the other factories.

MAKING THE CIGARS

The third and last floor contains the Ellinger branch and in this room are many men deftly forming the fragrant clear Havanas from the leaves that have been prepared in the departments hereintofore described. On the north half of the room is the packing room and the shipping department. Another elevator in this building conveys the manufactured or raw material from top to bottom and like the one before is operated by electricity and embraces every safety appliance known to the manufacturer. To the north of this building is the bonded warehouse, a building 125 feet long, 40 feet wide and 34 feet high. This department is in the charge of a storekeeper under the supervision of the United States Government and in it is stored at the present time about 6,000 bales of tobacco. An ingenious contrivance in the shape of a crane is advantageously arranged whereby a

bale of tobacco can be hoisted to any part of the building and deposited in the exact position desired. Between the old factory and the bonded warehouse is a court about 120 feet wide by 150 feet deep, and along this is a track on which a handcar is run for the purpose of transferring the bales of tobacco from warehouse to stemmery. Across this yard and fronting on 14th street is the old Ybor-Manrara structure, the bottom floor of which in front and left of the entrance is used as an office. The balance of this floor being used as a packing department for the Ybor-Manrara branch. The basement is used as a storeroom and connecting this department with the stemmery is a long tunnel.

The second floor of this building is where hundreds of cigar workers are seated at tables molding into shape with their hands the famous brand of cigars known the world over a 'Principe de Gales'.

ROOM FOR MORE

The top floor has been cleaned of all paraphernalia pertaining to other departments of cigar manufacture and is being transferred into a room like the one below which will double the capacity of cigar making when completed. The equipment of this immense plant has been brought to that degree of perfection that renders it almost faultless. No expense has been spared by the management of the Havana American Company that the best results may be secured both from the standpoint of workmanship and the quality of cigars manufactured. Each and every department in the entire establishment is under the supervision of an experienced and skillful workman.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

In 1895 there was an addition to the original building. A new Northern wing of the factory served as a humidior on the first level and a grading room for tobacco on the second level. Northern light was needed to compare the color of the tobacco leaves, therefore the second floor had large windows. On rainy days, the workers in this part of the building went home as the light was not sufficient for adequate work."

When the factory was being converted into a multi-purpose commercial and residential complex in 1973 the water tower was demolished. The tower was situated between the south side of the factory building and the east side of the Stemmerly.

B. Historical Context:

Three outstanding persons connected with the structure include Vincent Martinez Ybor, its founder, Edward Manrara, his associate, and Jose Marti, Cuban patriot who spoke to the cigar workers on the steps of the factory in an appeal for funds to liberate Cuba from Spanish control.

VINCENT MARTINEZ YBOR

Vincent Martinez Ybor was born in Valencia, Spain, September 7, 1818. Following the tradition of adventurous Spaniards, he departed for Cuba when he was fourteen years of age. He arrived in Havana, where he started working as a clerk in a grocery store. A few years later he began to sell cigars for Havana manufacturers and by 1853 started a cigar factory of his own.¹

With the beginning of the outbreak of the Cuban revolution in 1869, Ybor moved his plant and workers to Key West, Florida. Ybor had a successful business in Havana, and desired to expand it by establishing a branch in the Keys. The Spanish government however suspected him of having ulterior motives; it threatened him and his business with the result that he moved lock, stock and barrel to the United States.²

Three years after establishing business in Florida, two new members were brought into his firm. They were his son, Edward R. M. Ybor, and a close friend, Edward Manrara. The three associates named their new factory "El Principe De Gales" (the Prince of Wales), and their cigars later won them world awards for its quality.

Business was successful but difficult in Key West. Ybor faced serious labor problems that continually threatened the production of cigars. When he was visited by Gavino Gutierrez in 1885, Ybor was attentive to Gutierrez's praises of Tampa as an ideal location for the construction of cigar industries.

When Gutierrez arrived in Key West, he met with Ybor, Edward Manrara and Serafin Sanchez, who was an owner of a cigar factory in New York. Gutierrez lauded Tampa's climate and friendly people, and the cigar men listened attentively. Although the cigar industrialists had received good offers from Galveston, Mobile and Pensacola, they agreed to accompany Gutierrez to Tampa for an on-the-spot view. It was this trip which convinced Ybor to move to the Tampa area.³

Ybor met with the Tampa Board of Trade to discuss the possibilities of constructing his factories there, and the Board offered to back this project with a \$4,000 donation.⁴ After meeting with John Lesley who agreed on a price for land, Tampa was on its way towards becoming an industrialized city.

The beginning of the cigar industry in Tampa was viewed by the local residents as both a blessing and a hinderance. It would give a stimulant to the economy which would make Tampa a thriving city, yet it also would bring a large number of immigrants into a predominantly white Anglo-Saxon community. There were Latins who had previously made cigars in Tampa before Ybor, but their production was small and the number of workers were limited to their families. Ybor's plans were to bring in massive numbers of workers, which initiated the development of an entire city within a city to house, entertain and support the Latin population. Approximately forty acres of land were purchased by Ybor, who immediately constructed a wooden structure for the production of cigars. He also constructed houses, stores and other buildings for the workers:

.. "....The number of dwellings erected by this firm is between 200 and three hundred, most of them being arranged so as to accommodate two families. The frame building used temporarily as a factory has been converted to stores on the first floor, the second having been arranged into a most comfortable and elegant theatre."⁵

With the rapid growth of the area, Ybor and his partner Edward Manrara organized a real estate company, the Ybor City Land and Improvement Company on October 15, 1886. During the following decade the company donated over \$126,000 and buildings as inducements to other factories to locate in Ybor City. More than a half a million dollars was spend by the company to develop Ybor City.⁶ Ybor City had made Vincent Ybor a wealthy man, and in turn, he gave Tampa national recognition, prosperity and success.

Mr. Ybor was married twice. By his first wife Dona Bernarda Learas, whom he married in 1848, he had four children: Edward R. M., Candido A. M., Mrs. Eloise Schwaband, and Mrs. Antonio Riva. His first wife died in 1862 and four years later he married Miss Mercedes Ravilla. They had six children: Mrs. Jennie Gastenada, Mirta, Amalia, Helena, Slvador and Rafael.⁷

After firmly establishing his business in Tampa, Mr. Ybor traveled frequently to New York, where he was involved in the cigar industry. His influence upon other cigar manufacturers resulted in the establishment of several cigar companies in Tampa by the time of his death.

There are two dates of death recorded for Mr. Ybor. The first is recorded in the Tampa Morning Tribune and the second date is that listed in his will. The reason for this discrepancy may have been an attempt to file a will in New York instead of Florida for tax purposes.

Mr. Ybor's will states: ... "on the _____ day of February, A. D., 1897" ... Mr. Ybor died.⁸

An obituary in the Tampa Morning Tribune lists his day of death as Wednesday, December 16, 1896. As a tribute to the great man, the Tribune stated:

"...To the bereaved, the Tribune, in common with the whole country extends it most sincere sympathy in the loss of one whose place cannot be filled....as a mark of respect to our distinguished dead, and as an expression of our regard for him while living, and our grief at his death, the Tribune suggests that all places of business throughout the city be closed tomorrow morning during the funeral service."⁹

At his funeral, more than five thousand persons paid their last tribute to the founder of Tampa's cigar industry, Vincent Martinez Ybor.

EDUARDO MANRARA

Eduardo Manrara was born in Camaguey, Cuba in 1842. After studying in local schools he became a clerk in a boarding house. He became acquainted with Vincent Ybor in Cuba, an acquaintance which led to a lifetime partnership in business between the two men. Three years after Mr. Ybor moved his factory from Havana to Key West, Manrara joined the firm as a senior partner. When Gavino Gutierrez asked Mr. Ybor to visit Tampa as a possible site for his cigar industry, Manrara accompanied them, and became active in real estate after Ybor City was founded. His investments in local business rapidly expanded into the Ybor City Land and Improvement Company, the Tampa Street Railway Company, the Tampa Gas Company, and the Exchange National Bank where he served as President for several years.¹⁰

Mr. Manrara had four sons and a daughter: Eduardo, Oscar, Arthur, Armando and America. He also established a residence in New York City where he was active in business negotiations. At the death of Vincent Ybor, Mr. Manrara continued investing and improving land and property in Ybor City, slowly selling land as the property value of the land increased.

Mr. Manrara continued running the factory until 1899 when he sold the building to The Havana American Company.

Mr. Manrara died in his New York summer home, May 2, 1912. The Tampa Tribune, at his death state that:

'Mr. Manrara was widely known and well beloved in Tampa, having a reputation for good deeds as well as business enterprise. For many years, Mr. Manrara was one of the leading figures in Tampa affairs, and his part in the upbuilding of the city was one which will never be for-

gotten. His place cannot well be filled. Great regret is filled throughout the city not only among those who were intimately associated with him, but among others who knew him only casually."¹¹

JOSE MARTI

Although not a permanent resident of Florida, Jose Marti, a Cuban poet and patriot, played a significant role in the history of Ybor City. He was hailed by the Cuban cigar workers as the George Washington of their homeland, which was ruled by the oppressive Spaniards.

During the spring and early summer of 1887, more than 2,000 Cubans and Spaniards arrived from Key West and Havana to Ybor City.¹² The Cubans were intensely patriotic, and brought with them a fervent hatred for the Spanish government. There was an immediate conflict between the Spaniards and Cubans when they arrived in Ybor City, a conflict which represented the struggle by Cuba to achieve its independence. As more Cubans arrived to work in the factories, they looked to Jose Marti, exiled Cuban patriot, as their hope for a free and independent Cuba. Marti's speech to the cigar workers on the front steps of the Ybor factory was therefore a highlight in the Cuban liberation struggle to local Cubans, and it marks a significant historical event in the local history.

Jose Marti was born in Havana, Cuba, January 28, 1853, the son of a Cuban sergeant.¹³ Before he was 15, Marti worked as an assistant bookkeeper to help in the support of his home. While completing high school, he had already begun writing fiery denunciations of Spanish control over Cuba. These writings continued throughout his life, and resulted in his exile from Cuba to Spain, Mexico, Guatemala and the United States.¹⁴

While living in New York City, Marti wrote for the "The Hour" magazine and "The New York Sun", the topic of his writings being Cuban liberation and independence. He became a symbol of Cuban patriotism to exiled Cubans throughout the world.¹⁵

During the 1890s there was a deep concern in Ybor City over the fate of most of its citizens' homeland. Letters received from friends and relatives they had left behind told them of the sufferings of their countrymen.¹⁶ Feelings ran high in Ybor City and West Tampa, and Jose Marti was seen as the only hope for these exiled and transplanted Cubans.

Marti envisioned the formation of a formalized political party in exile while living in New York, but he needed the financial support of his fellow countrymen. He therefore immediately accepted an invitation to the Club Ignacio Agramonte to visit Ybor City.¹⁷

Marti had initiated his travels through the United States to gain support for his revolutionary party. He returned to Tampa several times. His most significant visit to Tampa came in 1893 when, on the steps of the Ybor Factory, he made a patriotic call for arms, money and men to aid in the Cuban independence from Spain. A plaque, placed in front of the steps by the Tampa Rotary Club, March 18, 1950, is inscribed with the following words:

"Deste este ecsalínata en el ano 1893 Jose Marti, apostle de la libertad de Cuba con eloquentes palabras pidio a los tabaqueros Cubanos emigrados que le ayudascan a conquistar la independendencia de su pais aportando hombres, armas y dinero. Muchos oberos cambiaron la chaveta por el machete y otros donaron centenares de mils de pesos para salvar de la oprecion a un pueblo y crear la Republica de Cuba."18

The burning desire to liberate his homeland sent Mr. Marti to Cuba with the outbreak of the last revolutionary movement, and he died early in the struggle, May 5, 1895.¹⁹ To the Cubans in Ybor City, Cuba's war was their war, and the death of their great patriot leader was marked with deep mourning.

In the late forties and fifties mechanization of the cigar industry forced thousands of the experts in hand-rolled cigars to move out of Ybor City. The new machines produced greater amounts of cigars than the workers could accomplish.

FOOTNOTES

1. Karl M. Grisner, Tampa, ed. D. B. McKay (St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg Printing Company, Inc.), p. 342.
2. Louise V. White and Nora K. Smiley, The History of Key West Today and Yesterday (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1959), p. 56.
3. Tony Pizzo, "Gutierrez Descubre A Tampa", Tropico: Revista Mensual Ilustrada Al Servicio de Hispano-America, Marzo 1955, Ano 1, Numero 9, pagina 17.
4. Tampa Board of Trade Records, October 5, 1885.
5. The Tampa Journal, June 23, 1887, Vol. 1, No. 27.
6. Grisner, p. 204.
7. Tampa Morning Tribune, December 17, 1896.
8. Ybor's Will, Hillsborough County Probate Records, Tampa, Florida.
9. Tampa Morning Tribune, December 17, 1896.
10. Grisner, p. 342.
11. The Tampa Tribune, May 2, 1912.
12. The Tampa Times, January 28, 1969.
13. Manuel Pedro Conzaes, Jose Marti, Chronicler of the United States in the 80's (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1953), n. pag.
14. Gonzales, n. pag.
15. Grisner, p. 206.
16. "En Memoria de Jose Marti", private files of Tony Pizzo.
17. Jose Marti memorial plaque, Ybor Cigar Factory, erected by the Tampa Rotary Club, March 18, 1950.
18. The Tampa Tribune, January 29, 1971.
19. The Tampa Morning Tribune, May 20, 1896.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: During its heyday, the original building was the largest cigar factory in Florida.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

MAIN FACTORY:

B-1. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building's front North Fourteenth Street (east) dimensions are 132' 4" and the East Ninth Avenue (north) dimensions are 162'-4". Its height is 66 feet high. The main section is three stories high plus a basement and a cupola; the Office Wing, * one story high plus a basement; and the Grading Room Wing, one-story high plus a basement; and the Elevator Wing, various levels. The number of bays of the first three sections are as follows: Main Section, 23 X 7; Office Wing, 6; and Grading Room Wing, 16 X 5. Basement, first and second floors of the entire building are C-shaped. Third floor is L-shaped.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Walls: The walls are red brick construction with white painted wood cupola. Bricks are laid in running bond. Continuous decorative belt of single course of brick with ends exposed at 45 degree angle runs at base of roof parapet on east (front) elevation of Office and Grading Room Wings and continuously across facade of the main factory. Same belt continues on south and west elevations of the main factory. A decorative belt of two courses of brick with ends exposed at 45 degree angle on alternating courses runs around the main factory at third floor level. The Office Wing has a flat parapet of brick with a sheet metal cap. The Grading Room Wing has stepped-down brick parapet on east and west elevations and a flat parapet with a sheet metal cap on north elevation. The elevator tower has flat parapet on all roof levels with decorative corbeled brick bands and corbeled brick caps.
4. Structural system, framing: Exterior brick bearing walls support heavy timber mill framing with interior supports on square wooden columns at mid-points.

*Located on the south side of the front section of the factory; a similar Grading Room Wing is on the north side of the front section of the factory. The factory faces east.

5. Porches: Front porch on the main factory (Jose Marti steps) has ten steps on three sides. Treads are cast iron. Risers have a decorative cast-iron section with an open pattern. Hand rails are iron pipe. The roof is supported on two square wood columns with trim, and brackets support the overhang. Roof covering is red semi-circular (Spanish) clay tile. This porch is not original but replaces the original porch removed by the Cuban patriots.

A covered loading dock extends across the west elevation of the main factory and the Grading Room Wing. The foundation of the dock is brick. The floor is heavy wood planks. The roof is supported on nine square wood columns with decorative wood brackets. Roofing is sheet metal on wood frame. Steps to dock are cast-in-place concrete.

A smaller loading dock is attached to the elevator tower. A flat roof shelters the tower.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on the south wall of the main factory and one on the north wall. These chimneys have brick corbeled caps. The chimneys extend through the roof and become part of the thick brick walls within the building. A single brick chimney on the Office Wing serves a fireplace in the office.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The double main doors in the center of the east facade are heavy wood. Each door is four panel. A similar single door on the south facade at the third floor leads to an outside stair. This door has a glass transom. There is one door on the first floor of the south facade. It is a four-panel door with a double metal fire shutter. The Grading Room Wing has two doors leading to the loading dock. Both are double doors. One set is of diagonal wood. The larger set is four-panel with glass transom over. The elevator tower has two single four-panel doors leading down to the basement workshops and two double four-panel doors, one leading from the loading dock to the tower and the other at a lower level leading to the basement. The boiler room has only a cased opening. There is one exterior door from the tunnel between the factory and the Stemmer. This door is in the east elevation of the elevator tower and leads out to a service yard. All doors into the elevator tower have decorative corbeled brick voussiors.
- b. Windows and shutters: Windows on the east elevation are double-hung, four-over-four. All have radiating brick voussiors with corbeled dentils. First floor windows have

fire shutters of sheet metal on wood frames. Shutters are held back by decorative iron ties. Windows on the north and south elevations of the main factory are similar except that there are fire shutters on windows on all floors. Windows on the west elevation are similar to east elevation except that first floor windows, which face the open courtyard, have vertical iron bars instead of fire shutters. On the north elevation of the Grading Room Wing, almost at street level are small eleven double-hung windows which give light into the basement Humidor Room. These windows have vertical iron bars and no shutters, and are decorated with brick voussoirs. The windows in the Grading Room on the first floor are casement and swing in. The metal fire shutters swing out. A small hinged vertical strip follows the shutters out to kill the crack between the shutters and the window casing. Light was very important in this room because tobacco was graded by color. On rainy days or other days when the natural light was poor the graders were sent home. The elevator tower has a variety of double-hung windows at various levels depending on the floor levels. The cupola has four windows facing north and south and three windows facing east and west. All are four-over-four double-hung.

8. Roof: Hip with built-up roofing. Five round metal ventilators sit on the ridge. Brackets support the roof.
9. Exterior stairway: Attached to south elevation of the main factory is a metal stairway leading to the third floor doorway. A landing is at the second floor. The stairway has metal treads, open risers and a decorative balustrade. The latter is made of flat iron stock worked into a scroll design. This stairway also leads to a pathway to the East Eighth Avenue.

C-1 Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The entire section of the Grading Room Wing contains a humidor room. This room is partly underground which helped to maintain the high humidity necessary for tobacco storage. A waist-high brick ledge runs the length of the room on its interior wall. The reason for this ledge is unknown, but it is possible that it was to prevent the excavating during construction of the Grading Room Wing from undermining the foundations of the original building.

Several trap doors open into the unfinished main factory basement. The factory is divided into two crawl spaces of nearly equal size. In the southwest corner of the main

part are the four spaces. Two of the spaces are used as shops and the space at the far end is the elevator area. A tunnel to the Stemmary is adjoined to these spaces on the left. Also adjoined to the tunnel on the right are a boiler room and an elevator shaft.

The Office Room Wing has one basement space.

- b. First floor: The first floor of the main factory consists of four different rooms: the shipping department, the packing room, the paymaster's office adjoining the general office and an unexplained room with thick brick walls. A storage room is at the northeast corner. The Grading Room Wing is one open space with only a row of columns supporting the roof. The south wall of the shipping department has four openings leading to four rooms. At the end of these rooms is the elevator tower. The Boiler Room is adjoined to the elevator tower on the right. The elevator tower has a variety of levels. It was built as a transition from the main building to the Stemmary.
 - c. Second and Third floors: These are two large empty rooms. The only furnishings these floors ever had were the long rows of wooden cigar rolling tables. The second floor has a similar plan of the southwest part of the first floor.
 - d. Cupola: The cupola is a small room with windows which lend a fine view of the surrounding town and the bay. Its lower level includes an intermediate landing. It was probably used to detect the arrival of tobacco ships when they made port.
2. Stairway: Pine with no decorative features.
 3. Flooring: Heavy wooden mill construction.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: In the factory portions, the walls are brick and the ceilings are exposed wood of the floors above. In the office, the walls are paneled or plastered with decorative designs. The ceiling of the office is embossed tin.
 5. Doors: Wood panel.
 6. Decorative features and trim: The paymaster's office has wood panel walls and barred pass-through pay windows.
 7. Hardware: The fire shutters have decorative cast-iron tie backs or dogs.
 8. Mechanical equipment: Two elevators and sprinklers.

THE STEMMERY:

B-2 Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The three-story rectangular building measures 60'-4" x 200'-3" with 8'-0" balcony on the west elevation. Its height is 64'-0". Both east and west elevations are five bays. The south and north elevations are twenty and sixteen bays respectively.
2. Foundation: Brick with concrete parging.
3. Walls: The walls are brick laid in running bond with headers at every seventh course. Facades are classic. There is a water table of concrete parging on the brick foundation at the bottom of the first floor windows. A decorative band of bricks with their ends exposed at a 45 degree angle and encased in a corbeled course runs around the entire building at the level of the second floor. A similar decorative band of two courses of brick is at the level of the third floor. Above the third floor windows, the walls corbel out to receive the cornice above. The wall is topped with a sheet metal cornice supported by cyma reversa brackets with a paneled frieze. The cornice acts as a parapet with the roof terminating below. Cast-iron vents are placed over alternating third floor windows on the long facade.
4. Structural system, framing: Heavy mill construction supported on ends by exterior brick bearing walls and on interior by a double row of 10" square wooden columns.
5. Balcony: A brick balcony 30' wide extends 8' over the sidewalk on the west elevation. This balcony is supported by three arches springing from stone haunches on top of square brick columns with corbeled caps. Each arch has a stone keystone and a metal tension rod. Above the arches is a two course corbeled band. Above this is a corbeled brick cap with dentils. The balcony railing is wrought iron. The balustrade has a fan design made of wrought-iron scrolls. The fan is split with a twisted wrought-iron baluster. This balcony has no door and the railing was decorative only.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Under the balcony on the west elevation are two sets of wooden double doors. Each door is four panel. These doors have a handle of decorative brass and brass plate. The handle is offset from center of plate. On the north elevation are two sets of double doors opening onto the courtyard. These courtyard doors have sheet metal fire shutters and their doorways have radiating brick voussiors with corbeled dentils.

- b. Windows and shutters: All windows are six-over-six double-hung, wood. All have radiating brick voussiors with corbeled brick dentils and labels. Sills are brick. First floor windows, except for the north elevation, have vertical metal bars. Most windows have fire shutters of sheet metal on wood frames.

- 7. Roof: Hip roof with built-up roofing. Roof terminates inside parapet walls. Storm drainage is through interior leaders. Six round metal ventilators are equally spaced along the ridge.

C-2. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plans: All rooms are completely open with no subdivisions.
- 2. Stairways: Wood with solid railings.
- 3. Flooring: First floor is concrete. Second and third floors are heavy timber.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are plain brick. Ceilings are exposed wood.
- 5. Doorways and doors: None.
- 6. Mechanical equipment: Sprinklers.

BONDED WAREHOUSE:

B-3. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Over-all dimensions: The one-story rectangular building measures 78'-3" x 123'-4" and is 31'-0" high. Adjoining the building is a 13'x 10' office wing. The east elevation is three bays.
- 2. Foundation: Brick with concrete parging at the base.
- 3. Walls: Brick laid in running bond with headers at every seventh course. A decorative band 12' above grade runs around the building. This band is made of one course of brick with ends exposed at 45 degree angle, and is encased in corbeled courses of brick. There is one row of cast-iron vents below and two rows above this band. The walls are topped by a corbeled decorative parapet and corbeled brick pendants.
- 4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing wall construction supporting heavy timber roof members.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Three double, metal clad warehouse doors with arched tops and locking bars are in the east elevation. Doorways have corbeled dentils and labels.
- b. Windows and shutters: One double-hung three-over-three sash window is in the middle bay of west elevation with an opening arch. At the southeast corner of east elevation are two windows with one-over-one sash. A sheet metal shed roof protected the latter windows; it was removed at an unknown date.

6. Roof: Each bay has gambrel roof inside parapet fire walls. The roof is built-up. Three round metal ventilators sit on each ridge.

C-3. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Three independent bays are separated by firewalls that extend above the roof line.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Concrete.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Brick walls and wooden ceilings.
5. Doorways and doors: None.
6. Mechanical equipment: Sprinklers.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The complex is located one block north of the main street of Ybor City, old Spanish Tampa. Across East Ninth Avenue is the Cherokee Club (El Pasaje), formerly an exclusive private club and later a Spanish restaurant. Diagonally across the northeast corner are the new buildings of Hillsborough Community College's Ybor City Campus.
2. Historic landscaping design: The buildings are grouped around an enclosed courtyard. Between the Stemmerly and the Bonded Warehouse is a double gate made of vertical iron bars. This gate has an arched shaped top and is hung from square columns engaging the Stemmerly and the Warehouse walls.

A fence with a double gate extends from the Warehouse to the main factory. This fence has three rails with alternating short and long pickets with spear heads. Sections of the fence are

supported by cast-iron columns. Midway up the columns are rosettes, then a fluted section of column and then another rosette. The top is a cast-iron globe. Set into the bricks of this courtyard are the iron rails of a handcar track formerly used in moving the tobacco from the Warehouse to the Stemmerly.

Another courtyard is formed by the Stemmerly and the main factory. This courtyard also has a picket fence and a number of large mango trees.

On both sides of the Jose Marti Steps are two gardens surrounded by fencing. In the center of each garden is a fountain. The fence has pickets of alternating short and long rods topped by cast-iron spear points. The gates also have similar pickets. The gates are supported by cast-iron columns with ornamental leaf designs.

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Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1973

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was made possible by the National Park Service, the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the City of Tampa. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1973 at the HABS Field Office, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida, by Professor Donald W. Barnes, Jr. (Architect, North Carolina State University), Field Supervisor; L. Glenn Westfall (Hillsborough Community College), Historian; and four student architects: Steven E. Bauer (University of Kansas); Weldon E. Cunningham (University of Texas); Daniel L. Jacoby (Cornell University); and Amy Weinstein (University of Pennsylvania). The written documentation was edited in 1982 by Susan McCown, a HABS historian in the Washington, D.C. office, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. Walter Smalling, Jr. took the photographs in 1979.

ADDENDUM TO
YBOR CIGAR FACTORY
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Ybor City
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Florida

HABS No. FL-270

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